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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF DISCOVERING A SERVICE RUNNING ON A COMPUTING DEVICE AND CONNECTING A CLIENT RUNNING ON A DIFFERENT COMPUTING DEVICE TO SAID SERVICE
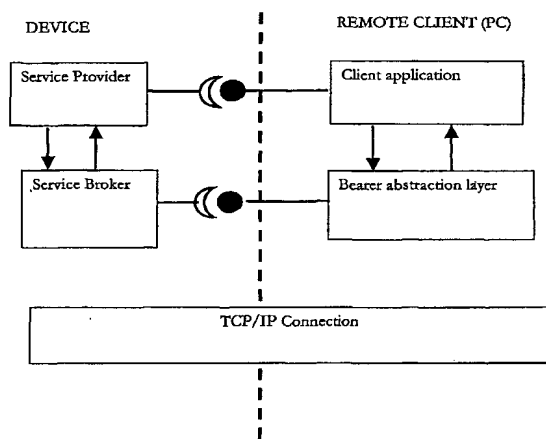
(57) Abstract: In an implementation of the invention, services installed on a computing device register their published name, which conforms to a structured naming convention, such as reversed domain information, with a 'service broker' on that device. The service broker uses a single well-known port number address. When an external client, connected to the computing device that has a service broker, wants to use a service on that computing device, it sends a message to the service broker using the well known port number. The message specifies the name of the desired server and requests that the service broker inform it of the appropriate connection point (e.g. port number) to use. There is no dependency on port numbers or unstructured and arbitrary naming conventions.
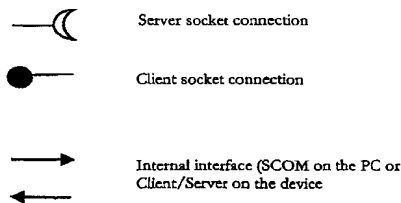
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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